(c) Both availability and price are important from the point of view of the consumer. Considering all these aspects, the situation has not warranted invocation of para 10(b).

(d) No, Sir.

तांबे का उत्पादन

*295. **श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवेः** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या देश में तांबे के उत्पादन में लगातार गिरावट आ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस धातु के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं;

(घ) सरकार द्वारा देश में तांबे की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं; और

(ङ) क्या इस धातु का आयात किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांग): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) से (ङ) वर्ष 1992 में तांबे के आयात को असारणी कर दिया गया था और इस पर लगने वाले आयात शुल्क को तर्कसंगत बना दिया गया था। सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रम, हिन्दुस्तान कॉपर लि॰ ने अपनी वर्तमान प्रणाली क्षमता में 31,000 टन से 1,00,000 टन वार्षिक बढ़ोत्तरी करने की योजना बनाई है। निजी क्षेत्र में भी कुछ पार्टियां तांबे का उत्पादन करने वाली इकाईयां स्थापित कर रही है।

Unemployment among the Disabled People

*296. SHRI JAYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled people;

(b) the steps being taken to absorb the disabled persons in gainful employment;

(c) whether remunerations paid to the disabled are less than their counterparts; if so, the measures taken to rectify this imbalance; and

(c) whether any special benefits, privileges or concessions are being offered to the relatives of the disabled; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) According to the information furnished by Directorate General of Employment and Training, out of 3,66,91,509 persons in the Live Register of Employment Exchange 32,91,700 have been placed under employment upto 31.12.94. The corresponding figure for the disabled persons are 3,40,304 and 52,859 respectively. The respective percentages of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled are 84.47 and 91.03.

(b) Statement-I showing the steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment is laid on the Table of the House. (*see* below).

(c) No information is available. However, there is no provision of fixing different rates for disabled persons under Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(d) Another Statement containing brief write-up on such concesions by the Central Government is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement - I

Employment among the disabled people

(i) 3% vacancies are reserved for physically handicapped 1% each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 35 Special Employment Exchanges and 50 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to

help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) seventeen vocational Rehabilitation centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stafls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

Statement-II

Concessions to the relative/escorts of the handicapped

1. *Travel Concessions:*

Travel by Rail: Escorts accompanying the blind/orthopaedically and mentally handicapped persons are eligible for 75% concession in the basic fare. This is in addition to the concession for the disabled persons.

2. *Educational Allowance:* Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarted children of the Central Government employees has been enhanced to Rs. 50/-.

3. *Income Tax Exemption:*

Deduction in respect of medical treatment of Handicapedd dependents: An assessee who had incurred any expenditure for medical treatment (including nursing) of any handicapped dependment suffering from permanent disability (including blindness/mental retardation) having the effect of reducing his capacity for normal work, is eligible for deduction of Rs. 15,000/- from his income.

Proposals for setting up Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

*297. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from private sector for setting up mini-steel plants in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total capacity of estimated steel production therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 Census and is also not located within the areas designated as 'industrial area' by State Government before July 25, 1991.

The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the electric arc furnace route. As per the information available, no proposal is pending for grant of an industrial licence for setting up an electric arc furnace based steel plant in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Area Under Flood Water In Haryana

*298. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area still under flood water in Haryana and whether Government propose to give compensation to the owners of such land which will not be brought under cultivation due to flood water;